INTRODUCTION TO MILITARY UNITS AND RANKS
The Unofficial Guide
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Introduction

Understanding the jargon of the wider military is no easy matter. There is very little instruction on the subject even for members of the ADF. Instead, much of the learning is gained by immersion and exposure, so for someone outside the services, many of the terms will seem quite alien.

Like most words in the English language, those used to describe the units and ranks of the military are borrowed from other languages and have changed in their spelling, pronunciation and meaning over the years. Some words have more than one meaning depending on the context which makes it even more difficult to learn. But, like learning the irregular verbs of a foreign language – or even those in English for that matter – there may be some sort of order to the chaos but more often than not you just have to learn the meanings and significance of individual military terms.

"HOW MANY MEN IN A BATTALION?"

Sometimes it's not an easy matter to say: "How many men in a battalion?" or "How many aircraft in a wing?" The answer will always invariably be: "Well, it depends…" What *is* important is to understand the concept of military units being like building blocks; a number of blocks can be put together to build a wall and a number of walls can be put together to build a house.

Many of the terms stem from the organisation of men into formed military bodies. The navies and the armies of the Middle Ages, and to a lesser extent, the much simpler needs of the air force of the early 20th Century, only needed a means of dividing the men or equipment into manageable blocks. For example, with an army composed mainly of foot soldiers, cavalry and perhaps artillery, the command structure needed only to organise these types of forces. But with the changes to the military and the changes to how man conducts warfare, the forces have become widespread to include aviation, signals, intelligence, transport, armoured forces, electronic warfare, health support, transport… and that's just a few extra capabilities in only one service, the Army! The units used to describe foot soldiers, horse soldiers and artillerymen are still used to describe these new capabilities but, as you can imagine, their meaning and significance has changed. Where a battalion consisted of 500 to 700 men carrying rifles, a battalion may now – as in the case of health support – may mean a fixed or deployable hospital with dental care, a field ambulance, environmental health support, psychological health support and so on. 1 Health Support Battalion is one such organisation. It's a battalion but it definitely doesn't have 700 men with rifles!

Now that you've been scared into thinking that this is going to be all too hard, sit back and let me give you the "soldier's five[1]" on how the military structure and ranks work.

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[1] Soldier's five is a euphemism meaning 'a quick brief on a subject.' It probably stems from 'A soldier's five minute instruction or lesson'. It can be used like "Corporal, can you give me a quick 'soldier's five' on how this weapon works?"

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY – Life on the ocean blue
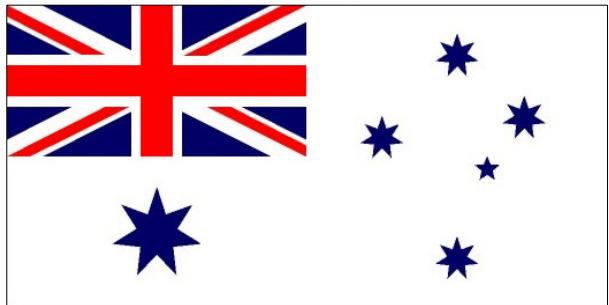
The Royal Australian Navy is often called '**the Senior Service**', although rarely by members of the Army and Air Force. This term stems from the fact that King Henry VIII first unified a naval fighting force and created the Royal Navy. At that time in history there were many smaller fighting forces on land and to a lesser extent on the sea. Usually they were comprised of indentured servants or serfs doing the bidding of a wealthy landowner or a lesser noble or a royal such as a Duke or prince. The notion of an organised hierarchical military force on a national level was not considered, so the English Royal Navy was the first. When the RAN was formed after federation (made up of the vessels of the former colonies), the term stayed with that service. (Navy people like it when someone outside the RAN refers to them as 'the Senior Service', but whatever you do, don't say that to a soldier or an airman. It has a tendency of raising hackles! Also, the navy do not like being called the "RAN". Rather, it's called the R.A.N. Call it the RAN and you could soon be experiencing the navy tradition of keel-hauling.)

The Crest of the Navy is the fouled anchor. A Fouled Anchor means an anchor where the rope or chain is tangled around the shank of the anchor. In reality, this is a sign of poor seamanship and is often referred to as 'the sailor's disgrace', but its origin lends more to art than to historical significance.

As a crest or motif representing maritime activites, an anchor has been used for over six centuries. It was the symbol of the Lord High Admiral of Scotland in the 15th Century but was thrust to prominence a hundred years later when Lord High Admiral Charles Lord Howard of Effingham, a hero in the battle against the Spanish Armada, used it for his seal or coat of arms. It was also a symbol of the victualling officer in later years but over time became used as a heraldic device in the Royal Navy.

The Royal Australian Navy adopted the symbol in 1949 and since then it has been slightly modified depending on the monarch of the time (where the crown changes depending on whether a King or Queen is on the throne) and in accordance with the change in typefaces. The fouled anchor is used as a part of the Australian Defence Force's Tri-Service Crest.

And as for why the anchor is fouled? Well, simply, it looks good. It was common practice, and it remains so to this day that when designing motifs, hard angles should be softened with flowing lines. A flowing rope countered the right angles of an anchor and in time, this became a flowing chain. For more information on the RAN crest, visit the Royal Australian Navy's website.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE NAVY

The navy's structure is not easy to pin down. It is very flexible and dependent on the situation or context. The first term you need to get your head around is the acronym **HMAS.** Meaning Her (or His) Majesty's Australian Ship, it will prefix every RAN vessel in the fleet and every base within the service. In the latter instance a base can be known as a 'Station' so it can mean Her Majesty's Australian Station, but in reality the navy still considers a base to be a ship! Don't ask me why, but that's what they do. In fact, when you go onto a navy base, you are considered 'going aboard' and when you leave a navy base; you are 'going ashore'. And what's more, when you are on a navy base, your room is called a cabin, the bathrooms are called heads and the mess is called the wardroom. For those of us from an Army background, it's very odd that the navy does this. Maybe it's too much salt air!

Even though I may make fun of the 'Senior Service' (ha ha), The Royal Australian Navy has a rich and interesting history and has acquitted itself bravely in its existence. It is well worth researching the valiant efforts of HMA Ships during the two world wars such as HMAS Sydney and, during the Gallipoli campaign, the amazing story of the Australian submarine AE2.

The RAN consists of a **Fleet**. In many navies, a fleet signifies a formed group of vessels and men in a geographic area. For example, during the Second World War, the Royal Navy's ships assigned to the Pacific area to defend its interests in Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong as well as its Commonwealth allies such as Australian and New Zealand were known collectively as the **British Pacific Fleet**. It varied in size during the war depending on the nature of the operations at the time. The US Navy usually numbers its fleet so the US Navy's Pacific Fleet is called **The 7th Fleet**.

The Australian navy does not have the size to be divided up into separate fleets, so the term fleet is used to describe a collection of vessels as a collective noun (as in 'a fleet of ships') or to describe the entire navy as a whole (as in 'Admiral Shalders commands the Australian Fleet).

The Fleet can be said to be divided up into establishments[2] such as ship establishments and shore establishments (ie vessels and stations). Within these organisations the personnel will be divided up more or less along the same lines depending on their tasks. **Duty Watch**, **Daymen** and **Watchkeepers** are some terms that will be used at sea and on shore on Her Majesty's Australian Ships.

The RAN has two primary bases and a number of subordinate bases. **Fleet Base East** is situated at HMAS Kuttabul at Garden Island in Sydney Harbour at Potts Point. **Fleet Base West**, coincidently, is situated at Garden Island south of Perth at HMAS Stirling. The navy's aircraft which make up the **Fleet Air Arm** are based at Nowra on the NSW south coast at HMAS Albatross. The Navy's primary personnel training establishments are at Jervis Bay south of Nowra which interestingly is technically part of the ACT technically and forms the territory's port. At this base, named HMAS Creswell, the navy trains its officer cadets to become officers. The main training base for recruit sailors is in Melbourne at HMAS Cerberus on Port Phillip Bay.

When a ship or vessel comes into port, it is said to be **alongside**. That is to say, it's alongside the wharf. When it has left port, it is **at sea**. Incidentally, **don't call a ship 'a boat'**. There is

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[2] Establishment in a military context can mean the organisation and its personnel and equipment, not just a building. For example 'The Regiment had 600 personnel and 35 aircraft on its establishment.'

no hard and fast international definition for either but basically, a ship is a larger vessel and may have smaller boats on it (such as tenders, lighters or life boats). A boat is usually smaller and will not have a boat on board. The exception to this is a submarine which because of its size, the fact it goes to sea should be called a ship (and still bears the acronym HMAS in its title) but is usually known as 'a boat'. The Germans called them 'U-Boats' which was short for *Unterwasser Boot* meaning Underwater (Submarine) Boat.

Now the Fleet has a number of ships, boats and vessels that do most of the work of the navy with which we are familiar. Organising these into groups is not easy and you will need to be aware of such terms as squadron, flotilla, divisions, sub-divisions, amphibious force, task group / task force. The most important of these is arguably the last two: amphibious force and task group/force. But let's see if we can't confuse you first with an explanation of the lot of them.

A **Flotilla** usually has two or more ships and except when referring to ships known as destroyers, it doesn't necessarily have a rigid structure. With a flotilla of destroyers, it does. So let's start with that to make things simpler.

A **Flotilla** of destroyers has nine ships. This can be further divided into two **divisions** of four with the last vessel being the leader of the two divisions. These two divisions can be divided into **sub-divisions**. (The Army has Divisions as well! Who came up with these terms? Talk about confusion). A flotilla of smaller ships such as corvettes, minesweepers and the like does not have a set structure. They will be organised as required but they can be divided into **divisions** and **sub-divisions** where there are three or more vessels.

Squadrons are a word shared between all three services. You can have a squadron of aircraft, a squadron of ships or boats or a squadron as an army unit. Confused? And well you should be… but for now let's concentrate on the navy.

Where you have two or more **capital ships**, that is to say, large powerful vessels such as battleships, cruisers and aircraft carriers, they can be organised into a squadron. It's sort of like a flotilla of larger ships and like a flotilla, they can be divided into **divisions** and **sub-divisions** where there are three or more ships in the squadron.

The more important terms in today's Navy.

The terms above are used in the day to day life of the Navy, but when it comes to tactical and strategic planning, the following terms are more likely to be encountered.

Amphibious Force is a term that has become quite important in the last 60 years and is still the case to this day. An **amphibious force** has the job of transporting ground troops from the sea and landing them ashore. It will mainly consist of ships and boats that are capable of reaching a beach or some other disembarkation point using things like **landing craft** which are flat-bottomed barges that can carry men and equipment or larger ships capable of beaching to unload men and equipment. Examples of the latter are HMA Ships Tobruk, Kanimbla and Manoora which do a great deal of work with the Army. An **amphibious force** will usually have some armed ships to protect the force.

Task Force or Task Group are terms used to describe an organised body of men and equipment (in this case ships and boats) that have been put together to undertake a task. It is a term that is common use in this day and age. The size will vary depending on the needs of that task and may include just ships and boats, or in the wider military environment, ships, boats, aircraft, men and land equipment. An example is Task Force 633 which is currently in the

Middle East and consists of Army personnel in Iraq and Air Force and Navy aircraft and ships in the Persian Gulf.

Force Element Group is a modern term to describe groupings within the RAN of similar services that facilitate management. At this time, there are seven FEGs in the RAN:

Surface Combatants Group

The Surface Combatant Group consists of surface warships as opposed to submarines They are the five **Adelaide Class Frigates** designated FFG for Frigate-Guided Missile (the second F denotes ships after 1920) and the 8 **ANZAC Class Frigates** designated FFH. The term Frigate referring to a warship has changed over the years but today it means a swift ship usually used for patrolling and escort duties and can counter threats from aircraft, other vessels on the surface and submarines. Two helicopters are usually embarked.

Naval Aviation Group

The Naval Aviation Group has as its main responsibility the Navy's aircraft which are collectively known as the **Fleet Air Arm.** At the moment the navy does not have an aircraft carrier, although most of its large ships are capable of **embarking** a helicopter or helicopters which are used to transfer men and equipment between ships (known as **Vertrep** which is short for Vertical Replenishment) or between the ship and shore. As such, the **Fleet Air Arm's** squadrons of aircraft are based at HMAS Albatross at Nowra but if a ship or ships goes to sea, it may take a helicopter or a number of helicopters from that location.

The jobs of the helicopters in the navy are many and varied and depend on the type of helicopter. As mentioned, it may be to resupply the ship but they are also used for search and rescue, to transport **boarding parties** of armed men who will go aboard suspicious vessels where necessary. One of the other roles of helicopters is looking for enemy submarines. They do this by hovering above the water and lowering a **Sonabuoy.** A SONAR (which stands for SOund Navigation And Ranging) is a device that emits a 'ping' sound which will bounce of other objects creating an echo which can be received and interpreted. It's similar to a RADAR which stands for RAdio Detection And Ranging, but where a RADAR uses radio waves of electronic energy, a SONAR uses sound which can travel underwater. A **Sonabuoy** is lowered by a helicopter undertaking this task and this is euphemistically called '**pinging for subs**'. Once an enemy submarine is located, it can be chased (or **prosecuted**) by surface vessels using torpedoes or depth charges, by torpedoes released by armed helicopters or even by air force patrol aircraft such as the **P-3C Orion**.

The current aircraft in the RAN are the **Seahawk** (S-70B-2), **Sea King** (SK-50), **Seasprite** (SH-2G (A)) and **Squirrel** (AS/EC 350B1) helicopters.

The Submarine Group

Also known as 'the Silent Service', the **Collins Class submarines** of the Submarine Group are based in Western Australia operating their boats (see the section on ships and boats) which are of a Swedish design and built by the Australian Submarine Corporation's facilities in Adelaide.

Amphibious and Afloat Support Forces

The Amphibious and Afloat Support Force contains all the vessels in the RAN dedicated to maintaining the fleet at sea and supporting amphibious forces. The two large supply vessels; **HMA Ships Success** and **Westralia** refuel and re-supply the fleet at sea or **under way** as it is called. The amphibious capability is maintained by two **LPAs** (Landing Platform Amphibious), **HMA Ships Manoora** and **Kanimbla** and the **LSH** (Landing Ship Heavy) **HMAS Tobruk**. Also included in this group are the larger landing craft of the RAN. (See Amphibious Force).

Patrol Boat Group

Patrol Boats are smaller, fast boats that patrol the **littoral** waters of the nation, that is, those waters close to the shore. But Patrol Boats are capable of going to sea in all be the roughest weather. At the moment, the fleet's **Fremantle Class Patrol Boats** are gradually being replaced by the newer **Armidale Class Patrol Boats.**

Mine Warfare and Clearance Divers Group

The RAN has a number of vessels that are responsible for clearing waters of anti-shipping mines. **HUON Class** Minehunters make up this capability and are capable of detecting (sweeping) for mines and destroying them. As a part of this capability of the MWCD Group, **Clearance Diving Teams** are the Navy's specially trained members who are responsible for disarming explosive devices such as anti-shipping mines and smaller explosives and booby-traps in and near the water either at sea or as part of support to land or amphibious operations.

Hydrography and Meteorology Group

This last group has six smaller vessels; Survey Ships, Survey Motor Launches and a twin-engined aircraft (**F27**) fitted with special laser survey and hydrographic measuring equipment called the Laser Airborne Depth Sounder (LADS).

Naming Vessels

The different types of vessels in the **Fleet** range from guided-missile frigates, amphibious ships, submarines, patrol boats and various other vessels such as mine-sweepers, hydrographic survey vessels and smaller working boats. They are usually referred to as a **Class** of ship or boat. An example is the **Collins Class** submarine or the **Adelaide Class** destroyer. The naming of ships and boats usually follows a convention. For example, all **Collins Class** submarines are named after significant persons from RAN history such as **HMAS Collins, HMAS, Farncombe, HMAS Descheneux,** and so on. **Adelaide Class** destroyers are usually named after major Australian cities such as **HMAS Adelaide, HMAS Hobart, HMAS Sydney** etc. A list of RAN vessels and their names are included below and more information is available on the navy's website.

Rank in the Navy

Lastly, let's quickly talk about rank in the Navy context. We spoke about officers and NCOs earlier but each service has its own nuances. In the Navy, personnel are divided into officers and sailors and, in the latter case, senior sailors and junior sailors depending on the rank.

SAILOR RANK	OFFICER RANK
Recruit	acting Sub-Lieutenant formerly Midshipman (pronounced 'acting sub LOO Tenant')
Seaman	Sub-Lieutenant (pronounced 'sub LOO Tenant')
Able Seaman	Lieutenant (pronounced LOO Tenant)
Leading Seaman	Lieutenant Commander
Petty Officer	Commander
Chief Petty Officer	Captain
Warrant Officer	Commodore
Warrant Officer of the Navy	Rear Admiral
	Vice-Admiral
	Admiral
	Admiral of the Fleet

Here's the explanation on the origin of these terms.

First you have **Recruit** which is obvious; someone who has just been recruited and is undergoing training.

Once trained, a recruit becomes a **Seaman** (SMN) which is also known as an **Ordinary Seaman.** The name's origin is relatively obvious. Its Army equivalent is Private.

The next rank up is **Able Seaman** (AB) from the old- English term Able bodied Seaman meaning a seaman with a certain amount of experience who could be counted upon to undertake a number of tasks that an Ordinary Seaman may not be able to do. Its Army equivalent is Lance Corporal.

Leading Seaman (LS) is also rather obviously a man who was given the task of leading other seamen in their duties. Its Army equivalent is Corporal.

Petty Officer (PO) is an anglicized version of the French *Petit Officier* or 'small (subordinate) officer'. It still appears in some forms such as 'The Court of Petty Sessions' and 'Petty Officials' which mean minor or subordinate. Its Army equivalent is Sergeant.

Chief Petty Officer is the next rank up. Its Army equivalent is Warrant Officer Class Two and like the Army, a **CPO** holds a warrant to command men and so is a Warrant Officer.

Warrant Officer (WO) in the Navy context is a rank and is equivalent to the Army's Warrant Officer Class One.

Lieutenant (left top) (abbr **LEUT** in RAN, **LT** in Army) comes from the French *Lieu (place)* and *Tenant (from the French Tenir – to hold, where tenant becomes 'one who holds')* so together it meant 'to hold the place of'. In the RAN one rank below this is **Sub Lieutenant** (left middle) (abbr **SBLT**) and below that is (left middle also) **Acting Sub Lieutenant.** An officer cadet (OCDT) may be made a **Midshipman**. MIDN (left bottom) is a term from the old tradition of men training to be officers living in the middle part of the ship, between the sailors whose quarters were in the forward part of the ship, and the officers who were quartered in the rear of the ship.

In both the navy and the army, the word denoted a position or was used as a modifier to other ranks such as **Lieutenant Commander** (left) (navy) or **Lieutenant Colonel or Lieutenant General** (army). In short, a person with this title 'held the position' of a more senior rank when that person was absent and served as a second-in-command.

Lieutenant Commander (abbr LCDR) is the next rank above LEUT. See Lieutenant and Commander respectively.

Commander (abbr **CMDR** or COMD when denoting a position but not a rank. See Army ranks.) is the term for the next higher rank. The word comes from the latin *Mandare* meaning to put into one's hand. Its origin as a rank stems from the old English navy position of Master-and-Commander just like Russell Crowe in the movie of the same name. But unlike the movie, the position or rank signified that that person was responsible for the running of the crew on board a ship on behalf of the ship's captain which was actually a rank but came to be used to denote a position as well.

Captain (abbr CAPT in navy and in Army but these are much different ranks) comes from the latin *Caput* meaning head which evolved into *capitaneous* which meant chieftain. A Captain was the head of a body of men. In navyspeak it also denotes a position, ie the Captain of a ship but whose rank may not necessarily be Captain. For example, a patrol boat with a crew of 18 may be commanded by a Lieutenant. In this case, a Lieutenant is the captain of the boat. In the Army, a Captain is a relatively junior rank equivalent to a Lieutenant in the navy. In the navy, the rank of Captain is the equivalent to the army rank of Colonel.

Commodore (abbr CDRE) comes from the Dutch *comendadore* which meant to 'have command over others'. It was an invented rank by the Dutch during one of the wars with England because, if history is right, they didn't want to create more admirals and pay them admiral's wages. When William of Orange became king of England in the 17th Century, the rank was introduced into the Royal Navy.

Admiral (left top) (abb RADM for Rear Admiral, VADM for Vice Admiral and ADM for Admiral). The crusaders first heard the term *amir-al-bahr* which meant 'king (of) the seas'. The term became *amiral* in some languages and for the benefit of English speakers, the letter 'd' somehow found its way into the word. **Vice Admiral** (left middle) comes from the latin word *vice* meaning 'in place of' such as in *vice versa* which means 'put the other (thing) in place of'. (See Lieutenant) The **Admiral** would command the fleet and the **Vice Admiral** would command the battle from the front of the fleet and he, in turn, had a second-in-command who commanded the reserve or the rear of the fleet who, obviously, became known as **Rear Admiral** (left bottom).

SHIPS AND BASES OF THE RAN

Ship	No	Class	Commissioning Date
Adelaide	FFG 01	Guided Missile Frigate	15 November 1980
Anzac	FFH 150	ANZAC Frigate	18 May 1996
Armidale	ACBP 83	Armidale Class Patrol Boat	24 June 2005
Arunta	FFH 151	ANZAC Frigate	12 December 1998
Balikpapan	L 126	Landing Craft Heavy	27 September 1974
Ballarat	FFH 155	ANZAC Frigate	26 June 2004
Benalla	A 04	Survey Motor Launch	20 March 1990
Bendigo	FCPB 211	Fremantle Class Patrol Boat	28 May 1983
Betano	L 133	Landing Craft Heavy	08 February 1974
Brunei	L 127	Landing Craft Heavy	05 January 1973
Bunbury	FCPB 217	Fremantle Class Patrol Boat	15 December 1984
Collins	SSG 73	Submarine	27 Juy 1996
Darwin	FFG 04	Guided Missile Frigate	21 July 1984
Dechaineux	SSG 76	Submarine	23 February 2001
Diamantina	M 86	Mine Countermeasure	04 May 2002
Dubbo	FCPB 214	Fremantle Class Patrol Boat	10 March 1984
Farncomb	SSG 74	Submarine	31 January 1998
Fremantle	FCPB 203	Fremantle Class Patrol Boat	15 March 1981
Gascoyne	M 85	Mine Countermeasure	02 June 2001
Gawler	FCPB 212	Fremantle Class Patrol Boat	27 August 1983
Geelong	FCPB 215	Fremantle Class Patrol Boat	02 June 1984
Geraldton	FCPB 213	Fremantle Class Patrol Boat	10 December 1983
Gladstone	FCPB 216	Fremantle Class Patrol Boat	08 September 1984
Hawkesbury	M 83	Mine Countermeasure	12 February 2000
Huon	M 82	Mine Countermeasure	15 May 1999
Ipswich	FCPB 209	Fremantle Class Patrol Boat	13 November 1982
Kanimbla	L 51	Amphibious Transport	29 August 1994
Labuan	L 128	Landing Craft Heavy	09 March 1973
Launceston	FCPB 207	Fremantle Class Patrol Boat	06 March 1982
Leeuwin	A 245	Survey Ship	27 May 2000
Manoora	L 52	Amphibious Transport	25 November 1994
Melbourne	FFG 05	Guided Missile Frigate	15 February 1992
Melville	A 246	Survey Ship	27 May 2000
Mermaid	A 02	Survey Motor Launch	04 December 1989
Newcastle	FFG 06	Guided Missile Frigate	11 December 1993
Norman	M 84	Mine Countermeasure	26 August 2000
Paluma	A 01	Survey Motor Launch	27 February 1989

Parramatta	FFH 154	ANZAC Frigate	04 October 2003
Perth	FFH 157	ANZAC Frigate	
Rankin	SSG 78	Submarine	29 March 2003
Sheean	SSG 77	Submarine	23 February 2001
Shepparton	A 03	Survey Motor Launch	24 January 1990
Stuart	FFH 153	ANZAC Frigate	17 August 2002
Success	OR 304	Replenishment (Oiler)	23 April 1986
Sydney	FFG 03	Guided Missile Frigate	28 January 1983
Tarakan	L 129	Landing Craft Heavy	15 June 1973
Tobruk	L 50	Landing Ship Heavy	23 April 1981
Toowoomba	FFH 156	ANZAC Frigate	08 October 2005
Townsville	FCPB 205	Fremantle Class Patrol Boat	18 July 1981
Waller	SSG 75	Submarine	10 July 1999
Warramunga	FFH 152	ANZAC Frigate	31 March 2001
Westralia	O 195	Replenishment (Oiler)	09 October 1989
Wewak	L 130	Landing Craft Heavy	10 August 1973
Wollongong	FCPB 206	Fremantle Class Patrol Boat	28 November 1981
Yarra	M 87	Mine Countermeasure	01 March 2003
Young Endeavour		Sail Training Ship	25 January 1988

The location of the main RAN Bases are as follows:

HMAS Coonawarra	Darwin
HMAS Cairns	Cairns
Naval HQ South Qld	Brisbane
Maritime HQ	Sydney (Potts Point/Garden Island)
HMAS Kuttabul	Sydney (Potts Point)
HMAS Penguin	Sydney (Mosman)
HMAS Waterhen	Sydney (Waverton)
HMAS Watson	Sydney (Watson's Bay)
HMAS Albatross	Nowra
Naval HQ	Canberra
Systems Command	Canberra
HMAS Harmon	ACT
HMAS Creswell	Jervis Bay
RAN College	Jervis Bay
HMAS Cerberus	Western Port (Melbourne)
Recruit Training School	Western Port (Melbourne)
Naval HQ South Australia	Adelaide
HMAS Stirling	Rockingham (Garden Island) WA

THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY
The Green Machine

The Australian Army is the oldest of the three Australian services. Born on 1ˢᵗ of March, 1901 as an amalgam of the individual colonial armies, it wasn't until 1914 that it grew to a mature organisation in response to the call to come to Britain's aid when she declared war on Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire as part of the Entente Cordiale.

The units of the Army, of any modern Army for that matter, reflect the old organisation of men under arms. And like many terms in the military, a word will depend on the context in order to understand its meaning.

One has to remember that when organised armies were formed, they usually consisted of foot soldiers, mounted cavalry or knights and later those that handled and fired cannons or artillery. As such, the words used to describe ranks and units were based on the roles the individual men or units performed. For example, the rank of Gunner refers to a member of an artillery unit but it is also the same rank as Private in the infantry or Trooper in a armoured cavalry unit. Like I said, it all depends on context.

Let's get started, shall we?

THE RISING SUN BADGE

The badge of the Rising Sun is the symbol of The Australian Army and has been for over a century. The following explanation is from the Army's website:

Proudly worn by soldiers of the 1st and 2nd Australian Imperial Forces in both World Wars, the 'Rising Sun' badge has become an integral part of Digger tradition. The distinctive shape, worn on the upturned brim of a slouch hat, is readily identified with the spirit of ANZAC.Yet despite the badge's historic significance, well researched theories as to its origin are more numerous than its seven points.

In 1902 a badge was urgently sought for the Australian contingents raised after Federation for service in South Africa during the Boer War.

Probably the most widely-accepted version of the origin of this badge is that which attributes the selection of its design to a British officer, Major General Sir Edward Hutton, KCB, KCMG, the newly appointed Commander-in-chief of the Australian Forces.

He had earlier received as a gift from Brigadier General Joseph Gordon, a military acquaintance of long standing, a "Trophy of Arms" comprising mounted cut and thrust swords and triangular Martini Henri bayonets arranged in a semicircle around a brass crown. To Major General Hutton the shield was symbolic of the co-ordination of the Naval and Military Forces of the Commonwealth.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY

Fortunately, the Army's organisation is a little more ordered than the Navy's. Unfortunately, there are a lot of nuances to get your head around.

Let's start with the basic building block of an Army: the **Soldier.** A soldier is a term used to describe a member of the Army but it is not always correct to refer to a member of the Army as a soldier. The word stems from the Latin term *solidus* which derived from a word to describe a type of coin. Soldiers were armed men who were paid in solidus or similar currency. A **Private Soldier** was a man pressed into armed service for a feudal lord as opposed to a member of a standing army or a knight. The rank of **Private** comes from this term.

The other differential term used is Officer. (See the introduction to this brief). In the Army, one may hear the phrase: "Officers and Other Ranks (or "Officers and O.R.s)" to denote the two differing groups of armed men and women. We'll cover ranks later.

THE ORBAT (ORDER OF BATTLE)

The basic units and sub-units of the Army derive from foot soldiers, cavalry and artillery. Let's try and explain them as we go along. It's easier to understand if we accept that an Army is predominantly organised along infantry (foot soldier) lines. So we'll describe the infantry terms first and explain the differences along the way.

An infantry **Section** is the basic building block of the infantry. It usually consists of between 9 and 12 men. The basic doctrine had two scouts, a section commander (usually a corporal), three members of a machine-gun team, and four riflemen. (10 men)

Platoon is a word stemming from the French *peleton* which means a group of men. There are normally three sections to an infantry platoon. (30 men plus a Platoon commander (usually a Lieutenant) and a platoon sergeant.)

Three platoons make up one infantry **Company**. A Company of infantry consists of three platoons of 30 men plus a Company Sergeant Major (Warrant Officer Class 2) and a Company Commander (usually a Major). There may also be a number of other personnel in the company such as a quartermaster sergeant and a clerk and a medic. A company consists of roughly 105 men.

The next building block is an infantry **Battalion** which is known as a **Unit**. Every organisation below battalion level (such as company or platoon) is known as a **sub-unit.** A battalion is commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel. An infantry battalion will usually comprise of four rifle companies, a support company (which will have heavier weapons such as mortars and heavier machine guns and anti tank weapons), and administration company which will consist of support elements such as medics, quartermasters, catering, administrative personnel, etc. An infantry battalion will have between 600 and 900 men depending on the manning levels.

Three battalions make up an infantry **Brigade**. A brigade is commanded by a Brigadier and will consist of about 1800 to 2500 men.

Three infantry Brigades will make up an infantry **Division** commanded by a Major General. There are about 8000 to 10000 men in a Division.

Three infantry divisions make up a **Corps.**

We won't go any further than this because it doesn't pass this in the Australian context.

Right, now that we have that sorted out, let's talk about the differences between infantry and the rest of the Army.

Because of the differences between infantry, cavalry and artillery, the terminology was different too. Now, with the Army undertaking much more varied roles and with much more varied equipment, the sizes of these units and sub-units has changed over time. Let's see if we can't shed some light on it.

Firstly, let's talk about the word **Regiment**. It stems from the Latin word *regimentum* (from *regere)* meaning to rule. It can mean different things depending on the context. A Regiment could mean a way of organising a number of fighting units for an administrative reason. For example, the British Army of the 18th Century would raise a Regiment of soldiers from a particular area. The Lancashire Regiment is one such regiment. It may consist of a number of battalions of soldiers; two, or three, or four or more. There was no set number. The fact was that the Lancashire Regiment was an administrative organisation and one or two battalions of that regiment may serve overseas in the colonies whilst the remainder remained back in England on domestic duties, to recruit and to train. That way the battalions could be rotated, but there was always a 'home' for the soldiers. They would identify with their Regiment. In turn, that regiment would be identified with the region of Lancashire.

In Australia one may find such organisations as the Kennedy Regiment in North Queensland, or the Melbourne University Regiment and so on. There would be no set number of members of the regiment, but there would be companies or battalions that would come under the banner of that regiment. The Regiment would have a headquarters that would look after the administrative functions.

Let's now talk about the word **Corps**. From the French meaning *body*, or a body of men, the word Corps may mean a set number of soldiers made up of two or more divisions. It can also mean, like regiment, a body of men and women who perform a particular job and are organised so that it is easy to manage them. For example, in the Army all the activities relating to transport are a part of the Royal Australian Corps of Transport. The Army driving school, centralised transport units, the trials and acquisition facilities will all fall under one administrative body within the Army called a Corps. The same applies for, say, the Royal Australian Armoured Corps where everything to do with armoured vehicles would come under its management. Tanks, Light Armoured Vehicles, Armoured Personnel Carriers, the School of Armour, would all be administered by the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

The concept is similar to a regiment in that it is an administrative function rather than a set number of troops. The difference is that a unit may belong to a Regiment but there may be many members from many different corps that are posted to that unit.

Let's also talk about the other meaning of the word **Regiment**. History has a number of units that trace their history from mounted or horse-drawn troops. For example, when tanks became commonplace on the battlefield, it spelt the end of the cavalry and the light horse. So when horses were swapped for tanks, many of the units changed their method of fighting, but kept the name and the organisation.

So the 10th Light Horse Regiment of the First World War who used to fight on horseback became the 10th Light Horse Regiment that operates Armoured Personnel Carriers of the 1990s. This custom is the same in a number of other armies, too.

Now in the times of horse, the word **Regiment** meant a unit of mounted soldiers which was the equivalent to an infantry battalion. It had fewer members but it was still commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel. In this sense it was a specific size of a unit rather than purely an administrative term.

That's the important thing to note. The sizes of the individual units and sub-units were different between different corps, but they held equivalent status in the organisation of the Army.

One further example is the term "Troop". It holds the same status as an infantry platoon of 30 men, but in the armoured corps concept, it could mean three armoured personnel carriers with their crew of two for a total of six men. The infantry platoon of 30 riflemen was of equal status as the armoured personnel carrier troop of six men and their three vehicles. This has some logic to it because each carrier can transport 10 infantry soldiers, so a troop of APCs (3 vehicles) can carry a platoon of infantry (30 soldiers).

Corps	Unit	Subordinate Sub-unit	Next Subordinate Sub-unit	Next Subordinate Sub-unit
Infantry (standard structure)	Battalion	Company	Platoon	Section
Armour Aviation Engineers (Transport)	Regiment	Squadron	Troop	Section
Artillery	Regiment	Battery	Section	Detachment

OK. Clear as mud? Let's go over the differences between the different corps and their terminology.

THE CORPS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY

Armoured Corps

The Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) is responsible for the operation and maintenance of tanks and armoured vehicles. Its history stems from cavalry units, and as such, its ranks and terminology reflects that of the old horse soldiers. A private is known as a trooper and the armoured vehicles of RAAC are organised into troops, squadrons and regiments. Because the basic sub-unit is known as a squadron, the WO2 rank is known as a squadron sergeant-major (SSM). (See ranks below).

There are three vehicles to a troop; three troops to a squadron (plus a support troop of mechanical engineers), and three squadrons to a regiment (plus a support squadron of engineers and maybe an administrative squadron of medics, cooks, quartermasters, clerks, etc). These numbers are flexible depending on circumstances such as available manning, equipment etc.

Infantry Corps

The Royal Australian Infantry Corps (RAINF) is responsible for the training and administration of riflemen (foot soldiers). The infantry is further classified into what's known as the **Royal Australian Regiment** which is explained earlier in this work. The key unit of infantry is the Battalion and there are a number of battalions in the Royal Australian Regiment which are listed below and are abbreviated thus: 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment is known as 1 RAR and pronounced (One Ar-Ay-Ar), 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment is 2 RAR, 5th/7th Battalion (an amalgam of two battalions) is known as 5/7 RAR (five seven Ar-Ay-Ar).

As described earlier, there is usually 10 men to a section, 3 sections to a platoon, 3 platoons to a company, 7 companies to a battalion and 3 battalions to brigade, 3 bridades to a division, 3 divisions to a corps. This structure is easy to maintain in a large standing army but in the modern army, it has changes to it which are touched upon below.

The rank structure of infantry is the standard structure. (See ranks below).

Artillery Corps

Royal Australian Artillery (or Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery) is responsible for training and administering cannons and artillery and other modes of projecting missiles (for example, anti-aircraft missiles, etc). They are differentiated into field artillery regiments and medium artillery regiments. A field regiment usually operate

Artillery is organised into detachments, sections, troops, batteries and regiments and the rank structure has some differences. A private is known as a gunner and the corporal rank is known as a bombadier (and a lance corporal is a lance bombadier). (See ranks below).

Royal Australian Engineers

The Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) are responsible for what would be considered all the civil engineering works in the civilian world. Major construction activities like building bridges, constructing buildings, making roads and drains and the like. But because the Army is in the business of constructing and destroying, the engineers also have the task of destroying obstacles and other impediments to the operations of the Army. RAE will administer and train engineers within the Australian Army and will operate the large machinery. They also have the responsibility of bomb disposal and other such activities.

RAE is organised into sections, troops and squadrons and regiments and the rank structure is standard although a private is known as a sapper from the term *to sap* or to undermine. This was one of the roles of a member of the corps of engineers; to sap the enemy's positions.

Australian Army Aviation Corps

The Australian Army Aviation Corps (AAAvn) is responsible for the training, administration and operation of the Army's aircraft. Its history stems from the cavalry when the new flying machines of the early 20th Century were operated by men who were mainly drawn from horse soldiers. As such, it keeps the same rank and organisational structure as the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

Royal Australian Signals Corps

The Royals Australian Signals Corps (RASIGS) originated from those soldiers that were charged with maintaining the lines of communications. Semaphore flags, then phone lines and then the wireless bore the genesis of this corps. Nowadays, RASIGs specialises in all types of radio and computer and IT skills, satellite communications and codes and cryptography.

Its unit structure is standard and so is its rank structure with the exception that private soldiers are known as 'Signallers'.

Royal Australian Corps of Transport

Royal Australian Corps of Transport (RACT) are responsible for the transport tasks within the Army and the training and equipment that goes along with that.

Its structure is similar to the standard structure except at sub-unit level, the term 'troop' is used instead of platoon. Many of RACT's units have been absorbed into logistic units such as Force Support Battalions.

Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME pronounced RAY-me) are engineers, but where RAE is concerned with what we would call civil engineering tasks, RAEME is concerned with electrical and mechanical engineering tasks. Some of their main roles is

the maintenance of equipment within the Army; from helicopters down to land rovers down to aircraft instrumentation.

Their unit organisation is the same as engineers and their rank is standard except private soldiers are known as 'Craftmen' and the WO2 rank at squadron level is known as Artificer Sergeant-Major.

Royal Australian Corps of Military Police

Royal Australian Corps of Military Police (RACMP) maintain the laws of the Australian Defence Force on a larger scale than within the individual units. At unit level, it is every member's responsibility to ensure that civil and military laws and regulations are maintained. For those incidents that cannot be maintained or administered within the unit, military police may be called in to conduct investigations and the like. MPs are also responsible for the administration of prisoners captured during war operations. Its structure and ranks are standard.

Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps

Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps (RAAOC pronounced RAY-ock) is responsible for some of the most important jobs in the Army, namely administering personnel. All things administration, from paperwork to handing out equipment in the quartermaster store comes under the bailiwick of RAAOC.

It's rank structure is standard and its unit structure would be standard except it is rare to find a sub-unit of only RAAOC personnel. Rather, RAAOC personnel are attached to different units as part of their support staff.

Royal Australian Army Pay Corps

Royal Australian Army Pay Corps is rather self-explanatory. It is responsible for the administration of finances and pay within the Army. Its rank structure is standard and like RAAOC, members are attached to units rather than formed in their own units.

Australian Army Catering Corps

Australian Army Catering Corps (AACC) is also self-explanatory and is responsible for the training and administration of cooks within the army and the service and transportation of food and the administering of kitchens in barracks and in the field.

Australian Army Band Corps

Australian Army Band Corps (AABC) is an unsung corps (no pun intended). Made up of musicians, the AABC plays a significant role in maintaining the morale of the Army and its tours of operational areas are extremely welcomed by deployed troops.

Australian Army Public Relations Service

Australian Army Public Relations Service (AAPRS) is a relatively new corps formed because of the advent and the importance of the media in today's society.

MEDICAL AND NURSING SUPPORT

The following corps are rather self explanatory. Rank structure is standard and unit structure is standard but with some minor differences. For example, where a field hospital once existed, a Health Support Battalion has emerged which will contain doctors, nurses, dental staff and psychological support.

Their badges are below and are, from left to right:

Royal Australian Dental Corps (RADC), **Royal Australian Medical Corps** (RAMC), **Royal Australian Nursing Corps** (RANC), and **Australian Army Psychological Corps** (AAPsychC)

MAINTAINING THE WELFARE OF THE SOLDIERS

The welfare of the members of the Australian Army is the number one concern of its commanders by way of providing the equipment and opportunities to train for war but also the non-warlike support. In this field we have the following corps: **Royal Australian Army Education Corps, Australian Army Legal Corps, Royal Australian Chaplains Department (Christian and Jewish).** Their rank is standard and their members are usually attached to larger formed units so don't normally have units of their own. Their badges are shown in order below.

Royal Australian Army Education Corps (RAAEC) **Australian Army Legal Corps** (AALC), **Royal Australian Chaplains Department** (RACD) **(Christian and Jewish)**

RANK STRUCTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY

The ranks of the Australian Army are basically the same as that of the British Army although there are some slight differences to the manner in which the insignia are displayed.

From lowest to highest ranks, they are as follows:

OTHER RANKS (O.R.s) AND NON-COMMISSION OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS

Recruit (RCT)   (No insignia for this rank)
A soldier under training who has not yet passed basic training

Private (PTE)   (No Insignia for this rank)
[Gunner (GNR) is used in Royal Australian Artillery]
[Trooper (TPR) is used in Royal Australian Armoured Corps]
[Trooper (TPR) is used in Australian Army Aviation Corps]
[Craftsman (CFN) is used in Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers]
[Signaller (SIG) is used in Royal Australian Signals]
[Sapper (SPR) is used in Royal Australian Engineers]
[Musician (MUS) is used in Australian Army Band Corps]

Lance Corporal (LCPL)
[Lance Bombadier is used in Royal Australian Artillery]
The single chevron ('V'-shaped stripe) worn on the upper sleeve signifies a Lance Corporal or Lance Bombadier. The following is from Wikipedia:

The origin of the rank of Lance Corporal derives from an amalgamation of corporal with the now-archaic lancepesade, formerly an NCO of the lowest rank. This in turn derives from the Italian lanzia spezzata, which literally means "broken lance" or "broken spear", but which was used to denote a seasoned soldier (the broken spear being a metaphor for combat experience, where such an occurrence was likely).

Another possible origin of Lance Corporal, although far less established and somewhat lost in history, is that the term may have originated in the Middle Ages as a title for corporals who had lost their horses on a battlefield and would join an infantry company for the duration of the conflict. Such persons were known as "Corporals of Lance" instead of "Corporals of Horse".

Corporal (CPL)
[Bombadier is used in Royal Australian Artillery]

A rank below sergeant but above private. Usually in command of a section of men. The Latin cap, meaning head or highest, is the most likely source of this word which evolved through the Italian *capodi* which, in turn, meant the head of a section. The French word for corporal is *caporal* and is the most logical source of the name. Some examples cite the Latin *corpus* (body) as the origin where a corporal was in charge of a body of men. This is unlikely as the word corps originated from this word. Terms like corporal punishment inferred a punishment against the body and should not be seen as any reference to the rank of corporal.

Sergeant (SGT) From Old French *sergent*, meaning to serve - the Latin *servient* meant the same. According to Military Traditions and Customs, para 2-926, the term dates back to the feudal system of medieval England when landowners used their serfs as soldiers, placing trusted servants - servients - in charge of them. The rank of Major was originally Sergeant Major - where Major denoted senior (from the Latin *magnus* meaning large or great). To that end, Sergeant Major was a term in itself that came to mean the rank of a man heading a particular group. Therefore, there could be a Sergeant Major, in charge of soldiers and non-commissioned officers, a Sergeant Major in charge of a company of men or the staff officer of a regiment, and a Sergeant Major General in charge of a corps of men (see General). In 1881, the sergeant majors heading non-commissioned officers, were given a warrant to serve, thus becoming Warrant Officers.

Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) (See also Sergeant, above)

[The Sergeant Major of a sub-unit is a Warrant Officer Class Two and holds a special position within the sub-unit as the commander's right hand man and his senior soldier. His or her title will vary depending on the how the sub-unit is referred to. For example, in the infantry, a sub-unit one level below battalion is company, therefore the sergeant-major of a company is called the Company Sergeant-Major. In Armoured units, a sub-unit is called a squardon rather than a company, so the sergeant-major is called the Squadron Sergeant-Major.]

Company Sergeant-Major (CSM) in all sub-units except for the following:
- Squadron Sergeant-Major (SSM) in Armoured and Aviation and Engineer sub-units
- Artificer Sergeant-Major (ASM) in RAEME sub-units
- Battery Sergeant-Major (BSM) in Artillery sub-units

Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) (See also Sergeant, above)

[The Sergeant Major of a unit is a Warrant Officer Class One and holds a special position within the unit as the commander's right hand man and his senior soldier. He or she is known as the Regiment Sergeant-Major regardless of whether the unit is a Regiment or a Battalion.]

COMMISSIONED OFFICER RANKS

Officer Cadet (OCDT)

An Officer under training who may be at the Royal Military College – Duntroon or the Australian Defence Force Academy. The epaulette may also have a white stripe.

Lieutenant (LT)

The most junior of the subaltern ranks. From the French *lieu*, place, and *tenant*, holder, the holder of the place. As such, it meant a junior rank holding the position of a more senior rank or an assistant or deputy. Thus arose the ranks of Lieutenant Colonel and Lieutenant General which, over time, came to have their own responsibilities. Today, a Lieutenant is junior to a Captain and normally holds command of a sub-unit of the size of a platoon or its equivalent. A 2nd Lieutenant is junior to a Lieutenant who may be referred to as 1st Lieutenant when differentiation is necessary to avoid confusion. Along with Captain, they comprise the subaltern ranks.

Captain (CAPT)

The most senior of the Subaltern Rank. A Captain can be a platoon leader but usually will be found as a 2IC of a company. From Latin *caput* meaning head, it became *capitaneus* in late Latin meaning chief which then spawned *capitaine* in French. In general, it means Chief Leader or Chief of a Company and was used to describe a head general.

Major (MAJ)

The Field Rank Officer commanding a sub-unit such as a company or a squadron. See Sergeant for the origin of the word.

Lieutenant Colonel (LTCOL)

The Field Rank officer usually in command of a unit such as a battalion or regiment or equivalent. Addressed or referred to by the shortened form, "Colonel", except when confusion may arise or when being announced. See Lieutenant and Colonel for the origin of the word.

Colonel (COL)

The highest of the Field Rank. Originally in command of a regiment, that role is now the domain of the Lieutenant Colonel who commands a battalion or regiment. Its origins date from 1505 when the King of Spain created 20 tactical formations, or columns known as "*colunelus*". The head of one of these units, which roughly equates to a battalion, was known as the "*cabo de colunela*" which literally means head of the column. The French adopted the unit and the rank, which was, in turn, adopted by the British. How the English got to pronounce it 'Kernel' is beyond me.

Brigadier (BRIG)

The General Rank commanding a Brigade of two to four battalions or regiments. Today, the suffix General is not used and Brigadier is the correct term. See General.

Major General (MAJGEN)

The General Rank Officer commanding a Division or in the current Australian context, the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters. Also see General or Sergeant for the origin of the word.

Lieutenant General (LTGEN)

The General Rank Officer commanding a Corps. Addressed or referred to by the shortened form, "General", except when confusion may arise or when being announced. The current Australian context has the Chief of Army at this rank. Also see General and Lieutenant for the origin of the words.

General (GEN)

The term General comes from the Latin *Generalis*, meaning of a particular kind. One derivitive, when used as a pre-nominal or immediate post-positive, is to have a superior or extended authority or rank, General Manager, for example. According to Military traditions and customs, (para 2-913), the reformation of the Army by Cromwell in 1645 after the English Civil War, created the army commander Captain-General Sir Thomas Fairfax, the cavalry commander, Lieutenant-General Cromwell and the infantry commander Sergeant-Major General Skippon. The prefixes Captain and Sergeant were eventually dropped which explains the anomaly of why a Major General is junior to a Lieutenant General (see Lieutenant and Sergeant). The Cavalry was the senior branch of the army, thus the senior general rank of the cavalry commander. The collective term for Brigadiers, Major-Generals, Lieutenant Generals, Generals and Generals of the Army is "General Rank".

Field Marshal is the most senior rank in the Army and is used only in times of war and is no longer used in the modern context.

The following information is from Wikipedia and is a very good run down on the formation of the Australian Army as of 2006.

Divisions and Brigades / Formations

Land Command is the authority responsible for the operations of Australian land forces, and has its headquarters in Sydney. In addition to its two divisions, there are a number of brigade sized formations and individual regiments under the direct command of LHQ.

Divisions

Below LHQ, there are two main formations within the Australian Army;

- Deployable Joint Force Headquarters (Land) and 1st Division - this is the main deployable formation, located in Brisbane, and contains the bulk of Australian regular forces; during an operational deployment, DJFHQ is a tri-service formation, commanding units of the RAN and RAAF as well as the army. DJFHQ also maintains the title of HQ 1st Division and contains a total of four brigades. Colloquially known as "DJs".
- 2nd Division - this is the main home defence formation, consisting mainly of reserve forces, with its HQ located in Sydney. It is divided into 5 brigades.

Brigades

- 1 Brigade - DJFHQ
- 3 Brigade - DJHQ
- 4 Brigade - 2 Division
- 5 Brigade - 2 Division
- 7 Brigade - DJHQ
- 8 Brigade - 2 Division
- 9 Brigade - 2 Division
- 11 Brigade - DJHQ
- 13 Brigade - 2 Division

In addition, there are two brigade sized formations that are under the direct control of HQ Land Command -

- 16 Brigade - this is responsible for the majority of the Australian Army Aviation Corps assets.
- Logistic Support Force - this is an integrated formation of logistic support units from various corps.

Special Operations Command

Special Operations Command is a command formation of equal status to the other commands in the ADF, but is drawn exclusively from the Army. It is a brigade sized formation responsible for all of Australia's special forces assets.

SOCOMD consists of:

- Headquarters Special Operations Command

- 171 Aviation Squadron, Australian Army Aviation Corps (under command of HQ Land Command's 16 Brigade (Aviation) but to be collocated with and almost all flying time dedicated to SOCOMD)
- Special Air Service Regiment
- 4th Battalion (Commando), Royal Australian Regiment
- 1st Commando Regiment
- Incident Response Regiment
- Special Operations Combat Service Support Company

Units of the Regular Army

Armour

Within the Royal Australian Armoured Corps are a total of four regular regiments. One of these consists of a single squadron. Of the four, one operates in the armoured role, while the others are reconnaissance units:

- **Armoured Regiment**
  - 1st Armoured Regiment - 1st Armoured Regiment provides a battlegroup for deployment.
- **Armoured Reconnaissance Regiments**
  - 2nd Cavalry Regiment
  - 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry)
- **Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron**
  - B Squadron, 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment

Infantry

Regular Infantry

The regular infantry was formed in 1948 from elements of the 2nd Australian Imperial Force (2nd AIF) and is composed primarily of battalions of a single large regiment, the Royal Australian Regiment. This consists of six battalions in five different roles:

- 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment - Light Infantry
- 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment - Light Infantry
- 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment - Parachute Infantry
- 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment - Commando
- 5th/7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment - Mechanised Infantry
- 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment - Light Infantry

The Royal Australian Regiment provides a total of five battlegroups for deployment; the 4th Battalion, because of its specialist role, is included as part of Australia's special forces.

NB: 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment was disbanded on 30th June 1997.

Regional Force Surveillance

In addition to the regular infantry, within the Australian Army are three battalion sized Regional Force Surveillance Units. These are dedicated reconnaissance units based in the north and west of Australia:

- North-West Mobile Force (NORFORCE)
- The Pilbara Regiment
- Far North Queensland Regiment

Special Forces

There is also the special forces element of the infantry. Special Operations has its own command structure, under which comes 4 RAR (regular army) and 1st Commando Regiment (Army Reserve), as well as the dedicated special forces unit:

- Special Air Service Regiment
- 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando) (4 RAR (Cdo))
- 1st Commando Regiment (Army Reserve)

Combat Support Arms

Artillery

The Royal Australian Artillery has four individual regiments and a single independent battery within the regular army:

- 1 Field Regiment - Close Support (L119 Light Gun) - 7 Brigade
- 4 Field Regiment - Close Support (L119 Light Gun) - 3 Brigade
- 8/12 Medium Regiment - Close Support (M198 Howitzer) - 1 Brigade
- 16 Air Defence Regiment - Air Defence (Rapier & RBS-70) - LHQ
- 131 Locating Battery - Surveillance and Target Acquisition - DJHQ
    - 20 Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment (forming)

Engineers

The Royal Australian Engineers has a total of five regular regiments, plus a number of independent squadrons. Of these, three are ordinary combat engineer regiments (the equivalent of Field Regiments in the Royal Engineers), each of which is attached to a brigade. The fourth provides support for Land Headquarters (LHQ) and the fifth is the specialist engineering support unit to the Special Operations Command.

- 1 Combat Engineer Regiment - 1 Brigade
- 2 Combat Engineer Regiment - 7 Brigade
- 3 Combat Engineer Regiment - 3 Brigade
- 6 Engineer Support Regiment - LHQ
- Incident Response Regiment - SOC

There is a further regular unit, which consists of the army's consultative engineers, who are responsible for the planning and drafting of the engineering projects undertaken by the CERs.

- 19 Chief Engineer Works

The Reserve units of the Royal Australian Engineers mirrors the structure of the regular units. Each CER is attached to a Reserve brigade. The Reserve units also provide support to the regular units as required.

Signals

Within the Royal Australian Signal Corps, there are two regiments and a number of individual squadrons, which provide communications for formations at brigade level and above:

- **Regiments**
    - 1 Joint Support Unit (DJHQ/1 Division) (formerly 1 Signal Regiment)
    - 7 Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare)
- **Squadrons**
    - 103 Signal Squadron (3 Command Support Regiment) - 3 Brigade
    - 104 Signal Squadron (1 Command Support Regiment) - 1 Brigade
    - 110 Signal Squadron - LFHQ
    - 126 Signal Squadron - 4th (Commando) Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
    - 130 Signal Squadron - Logistic Support Force
    - 139 Signal Squadron (7 Command Support Regiment) - 7 Brigade
    - 145 Signal Squadron - Logistic Support Force
    - 152 Signal Squadron - Special Air Service Regiment

Brigade signals squadrons are amalgamated with military police and HQ units into **Combat Support Regiments**, assigned to specific brigades.

Aviation

Australian Army Aviation consists of 16 Brigade (Aviation) which contains two regiments:

- 1 Aviation Regiment - Battlefield Support and Reconnaissance
- 5 Aviation Regiment - Tactical Assault and Air Mobility

5 Aviation Regiment was formed from 9 Squadron and 35 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force when the role of battlefield helicopters was transferred to the Army from the Air Force.

Combat Service Support

With the regular army are a number of corps that make up the 'Combat Service Support Corps':

- Royal Australian Corps of Transport
- Australian Army Catering Corps
- Royal Australian Army Medical Corps
    - 1 Health Support Battalion
    - 2 Health Support Battalion
    - 3 Health Support Battalion
- Australian Army Psychology Corps
    - 1 Psychology Unit
- Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps
- Royal Australian Army Dental Corps
- Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps
- Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
- Royal Australian Corps of Military Police
    - 1 Military Police Battalion
- Royal Australian Army Pay Corps
- Australian Army Legal Corps
- Royal Australian Army Education Corps

- Royal Australian Army Chaplains Department
- Australian Army Intelligence Corps
  - 1 Intelligence Battalion
- Australian Army Public Relations Service

These Corps provide the vital support to the combat arms ensuring they have all the support necessary for them to execute their mission. No one unit in any Army is able to conduct its mission without support from a wide range of Combat Support and Combat Service Support units.

Ceremonial

The Federation Guard is a tri-service unit that provides ceremonial guards and gun salutes.

Training Command Units

Training Command – Army oversees the various training centres around the country as listed below:

- Land Warfare Development Centre
- Royal Military College - Duntroon
  - SydneyUniversity Regiment
  - Queensland University Regiment
  - University of New South Wales Regiment
  - Melbourne University Regiment
  - Monash University Regiment
  - Adelaide University Regiment
  - Western Australia University Regiment
- HQ Regional Training Centre
  - RTC (SQ)
  - RTC (NSW)
  - RTC (VIC)
  - RTC (SA)
  - RTC (WA)
  - RTC (TAS)
  - RTC (NT)
  - RTC (NQ)
- Army Recruit Training Centre
- Combat Training Centre
- Army Logistics Training Centre
- Parachute Training School
- Defence School of Signals
- Defence Force School of Music
- Defence Police Training Centre
- Army Aviation Training Centre
- Training Technology Centre
- Defence Intelligence Training Centre
- Joint Telecommunications School

Units of the Army Reserve

Armour (Reserve)

- 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers
- 3rd/9th South Australia Mounted Rifles
- 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse
- 10th Light Horse (A Squadron only)
- 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers

Infantry (Reserve)

The Army Reserve infantry regiments of the Australian Army have a proud heritage dating back over almost one hundred and fifty years, including service in the Boer War, WWI and WWII.

- Royal New South Wales Regiment
  - 1st/19th Battalion
  - 2nd/17th Battalion
  - 4th/3rd Battalion
  - 41st Battalion
- Royal Queensland Regiment
  - 9th Battalion
  - 25th/49th Battalion
  - 31st Battalion
  - 42nd Battalion
- Royal South Australia Regiment
  - 10th/27th Battalion
- Royal Tasmania Regiment
  - 12th/40th Battalion
- Royal Victoria Regiment
  - 5th/6th Battalion
  - 8th/7th Battalion
- Royal Western Australia Regiment
  - 11th/28th Battalion
  - 16th Battalion
- 1st Commando Regiment

Artillery (Reserve)

- 2/10 Medium Regiment - M198 Howitzer, L119 Light Gun
- 3 Field Regiment - M2A2 Field Gun
- 6/13 Field Regiment - M2A2 Field Gun
- 7 Field Regiment - L119 Light Gun
- 23 Field Regiment - L119 Light Gun

Engineers (Reserve)

- 4 Combat Engineer Regiment
- 5 Combat Engineer Regiment
- 8 Combat Engineer Regiment
- 9 Combat Engineer Regiment

- 11 Combat Engineer Regiment
- 13 Combat Engineer Regiment
- 21 Construction Regiment
- 22 Construction Regiment

Signals (Reserve)

- **Regiments**
  - 8 Signal Regiment - 2nd Division
- **Squadrons**
  - 108 Signal Squadron (4 Command Support Regiment) - 4 Brigade
  - 109 Signal Squadron (13 Command Support Regiment) - 13 Brigade
  - 141 Signal Squadron (11 Command Support Regiment) - 11 Brigade
  - 142 Signal Squadron (5 Command Support Regiment) - 5 Brigade
  - 144 Signal Squadron (9 Command Support Regiment) - 9 Brigade
  - 155 Signal Squadron (8 Command Support Regiment) - 8 Brigade
  - 301 Signal Squadron - 1st Commando Regiment
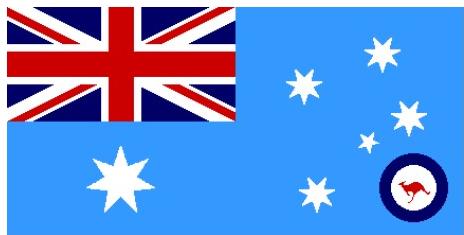
The Royal Australian Air Force

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) is the youngest of the three armed services of Australia. The genesis of the RAAF was actually an army unit known as the Australian Flying Corps. Modelled on the Royal Flying Corps in Britain, it was formed in 1911 with its home in Point Cooke (later Point Cook) on the western shore of Port Phillip Bay in Melbourne. When the First World War broke out, Australian Army AFC units were sent to Europe and to the Middle East where they acquitted themselves well, usually working with squadrons of the RFC (which became the Royal Air Force in 1918 just prior to the end of the war).

Soon after the war om 31 March, 1921, the Australian government formed the Australian Air Force and soon after it was given Royal Assent and the prefix Royal was added. Since then, elements of the RAAF have served in virtually every warlike and non-warlike operational area as well as the high profile missions such as aeromedical evacuations of Australians and other nationals from terrorist attacks overseas as was seen in both Bali bombings.

THE RAAF CREST

Derived from the crest of the RAF, the primary difference is the use of the Wedged-tail Eagle. The motto *Per Ardua Ad Astra* has been translated into many different versions. The following is from the RAAF website:

> The motto was derived from Sir Henry Rider Haggard's famous novel, "The People of the Mist" and was selected and approved as a motto for the Royal Flying Corps on 15 March 1913 and remains with the RAF today. In 1929 the Royal Australian Air Force decided to adopt it too.

Although no specific record of the translation exists, many slight variations on the signed version were used since 1929, with the RAAF Chief of Air Force formally accepting the meaning: "Through Struggle to the Stars" in January 2002.

How Many 'Planes to a Squadron?

Like the question 'how many soldiers to a battalion?', the answer is 'it depends'.

Below is a list of the main units and sub-units as determined by the number of aircraft, but like the Army, over the years these terms have changed in their descriptions because not every unit in the RAAF operates aircraft. For example, 1 Air Transportable Health Squadron is, as the name suggests, a hospital that can be moved by air… but it has no aircraft. Just doctors, nurses, medics and medical equipment.

The key elements are Flights, Squadrons, Wings and Groups.

1916 – 4 aircraft to a **Flight**, 3 Flights to a **Squadron**, 2-6 Squadrons to a **Wing**, 2-6 Wings to a **Group**.

1917 – 6 aircraft to a **Flight**, 3 Flights to a **Squadron**, 2-6 Squadrons to a **Wing**, 2-6 Wings to a **Group**.

1943 – 6 [fighter or bomber or transport] aircraft to a **Flight** or 3 maritime aircraft to a **Flight**, 2-4 Flights to a **Squadron**, 2-6 Squadrons to a **Wing**, 2-6 Wings to a **Group**.

1965 – 4 bomber or helicopter aircraft to a **Flight**, [6 transport aircraft to a **flight**], 2-3 Flights to a **Squadron**, 2 Squadrons to a **Wing**, flexible number of Wings to a **Group**.

1998 – numbers are flexible.

Like the Army where the organisational structure is based along infantry lines even though that necessity has long since passed, the air force is structured along aircraft squadrons and their organisation. This system has evolved to incorporate units and sub-units that do not operate aircraft. In essence, the key organisational structure is the 'Group' with its subordinate elements of 'wings', 'squadrons' and 'flights'. This is shown below in Air Force Structure but before we get into that, let's talk about rank.

Origins of Air Force Rank

NOTE: Many RAF ranks do not imply the appointment or duties of an officer. For example, a Pilot Officer may well not be trained to pilot an aircraft and a Squadron Leader does not necessarily command a squadron.

The rank structure of the RAAF is similar to that of the navy and this is because it is a direct copy of the RAF which had its origins alongside the Royal Navy. During the First World War, the key operators of aircraft in Britain were arms of the British Army and the Royal Navy, the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service respectively.

The RFC kept the same ranks as the regular army but the RNAS added descriptors to the rank. Where the normal navy rank of Lieutenant existed, the RNAS added 'Flight' to signify that that particular rank was responsible for a flight of aircraft. The next rank was Lieutenant Commander but the RNAS adjusted it to Squadron Commander. (It's interesting to note that this rank no longer exists, although fans of the Rowan Atkinson series *Black Adder Goes Forth* may recall the character of Squadron Commander, The Lord Flashheart played by Rik Mayall.) The next rank is, of course, Commander which was adjusted to Wing Commander to signify that that rank commanded a wing of aircraft… and so on. The following text is from an internet source of unknown origin and describes how the RAF ranks (and thus RAAF ranks) came about.

Lieutenant-General David Henderson originally proposed that Royal Air Force officers use a combination of British Army and Royal Navy ranks. However, the War Office argued that the RAF should have its own ranks and the Admiralty opposed any use of their rank titles. So was born the air force rank system.

Badges of Rank

On 1 April 1918, Air Force Memorandum 2 specified rank insignia for the newly established independent force. Rank was to be worn on the jacket cuff and was derived from the Royal Navy's rings, each equivalent rank having the same number of rings. However, second lieutenants (now pilot officers) displayed a crowned eagle only and the Navy's loop was not used for any rank. Depending on the uniform, either gold or pale blue on grey braid was worn.

In August 1918, Air Ministry Weekly Order 617 added a single band of 1/4 inch braid below the second lieutenant's eagle and all other officer ranks recieved a crowned eagle above their braid.

In 1919 the colour of the rank braid was changed to black with a central pale blue stripe. However, on RAF mess dress rank continued to be displayed in gold. The RAAF's uniform colour is a darker blue than that of the RAF but the rank design is basically the same. (See diagram below).

Rank Titles

On 1 August 1919, Air Ministry Weekly Order 973 introduced new rank titles for RAF officers. They were based on Royal Navy ranks and their titles were influenced by the usage in the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) during World War I. Initially the highest rank was titled Marshal of the Air. However, only a few days after it was promulgated and at the request of King George V, this rank title was changed to Marshal of the Royal Air Force.

Because the Navy's rank system has already been explained and so has the Army's (see above), I will not delve too deeply into the ranks themselves seeing as how the Air Force's system is an amalgam of the Army's and Navy's.

THE RANKS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

The following table of Air Force ranks and their equivalents in the Army and Navy is from Wikipedia. The Code on the left corresponds to the American and NATO system of grading which provides a reference between the forces of different nations. The insignia is shown below and is worn on the shoulder's epaulettes.

CODE	RAAF	ABBREVIATION	ARMY	NAVY
Air Officers				
O-10	Air Chief Marshal	ACM	General	Admiral
O-9	Air Marshal	AIRMSHL	Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral
O-8	Air Vice Marshal	AVM	Major General	Rear Admiral
O-7	Air Commodore	AIRCDRE	Brigadier	Commodore
Senior Officers				
O-6	Group Captain	GPCAPT	Colonel	Captain
O-5	Wing Commander	WGCDR	Lieutenant Colonel	Commander
O-4	Squadron Leader	SQNLDR	Major	Lieutenant Commander
Junior Officers				
O-3	Flight Lieutenant	FLTLT	Captain	Lieutenant
O-2	Flying Officer	FLGOFF	Lieutenant	Sub Lieutenant
O-1	Pilot Officer	PLTOFF	Second Lieutenant	Acting Sub Lieutenant
Officer Trainee				
	Officer Cadet	OFFCDT	Officer Cadet	Midshipman

AIR FORCE

Air Chief Marshal ACM — Air Marshal AIRMSHL — Air Vice-Marshal AVM — Air Commodore AIRCDRE — Group Captain GPCAPT — Wing Commander WGCDR — Squadron Leader SQNLDR — Flight Lieutenant FLTLT — Flying Officer FLGOFF — Pilot Officer PLTOFF
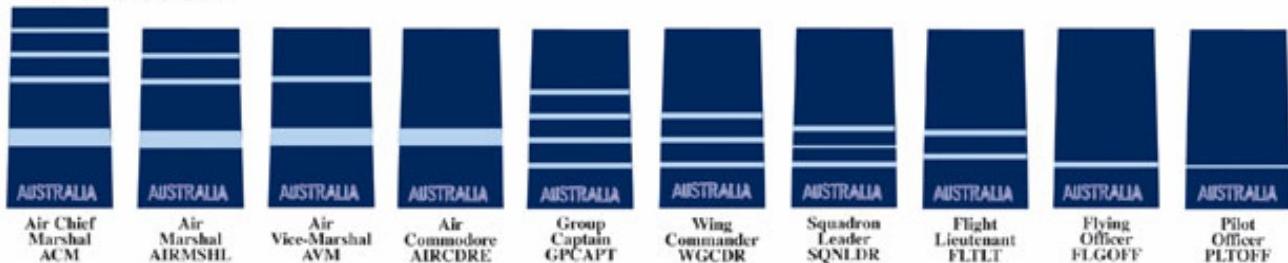
Airmen

CODE	RAAF	ABBREVIATION	ARMY	NAVY
Senior Non-commissioned Officers				
E-9	Warrant Officer of the Air Force	WOFF-AF	RSM of the Army	Warrant Officer of the Navy
E-8	Warrant Officer	WOFF	Warrant Officer Class 1	Warrant Officer
Non-commissioned Officers				
E-7	Flight Sergeant	FSGT	Warrant Officer Class 2	Chief Petty Officer
E-5	Sergeant	SGT	Sergeant	Petty Officer
E-4	Corporal	CPL	Corporal	Leading Seaman
Airmen				
E-2	Leading Aircraftsman/Woman	LAC/W	None	Able Seaman
E-1	Aircraftsman/Woman	AC/W	Private	Seaman

AIR FORCE

Warrant Officer of the Air Force WOFF-AF — Warrant Officer WOFF — Flight Sergeant FSGT — Sergeant SGT — Corporal CPL — Leading Aircraftman/Aircraftwoman LAC/W — Aircraftman/Aircraftwoman AC/W

Air Force Structure

Formations

FORMATION	COMMANDER	RANK	ARMY EQUIVALENT
Air Force	Chief of Air Force (CAF)	Air Marshal	Army
Command	Commander	Air Vice Marshal	Corps
Group	Commander	Air Commodore	Brigade
Wing	Officer Commanding	Group Captain	Battalion
Squadron / Unit	Commanding Officer	Wing Commander	Company
Flight	Flight Commander	Squadron Leader	Platoon
Section	Officer in Charge	Junior Officer~	Section

~A Junior Officer is a Pilot Officer, Flying Officer or Flight Lieutennent

Common Appointments

- Chief of Defence Force (CDF) Air Chief Marshal (Only when RAAF Officer)
- Vice Chief of Defence Force (VCDF) Air Marshal (Only when RAAF Officer)
- Deputy Chief of Air Force (DCAF) Air Vice Marshal

Air Force Headquaters

UNIT	FULL NAME	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT
CAF	Office of the Chief of Air Force	Russell Offices	
WOFF-AF	Warrant Officer of the Air Force	Russell Offices	
AFHQ	Air Force Headquaters	Russell Offices	

Air Command

HQAC	Headquaters Air Command	RAAF Base Glenbrook	

Air Combat Group

The role of Air Combat Group is to operate aircraft concerned with directly engaging the enemy, its positions or equipment in combat in or by air.

UNIT	FULL NAME	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT
HQACG	Headquaters Air Combat Group	RAAF Base Williamtown	
78 Wing			
HQ78WG	Headquaters No. 78 Wing	RAAF Base Williamtown	
76SQN	No. 76 Squadron	RAAF Base Williamtown	BAe-Hawk 127
79SQN	No. 79 Squadron	RAAF Base Pearce	BAe-Hawk 127
2OCU	2 Operational Conversion Unit	RAAF Base	F/A-18

		Williamtown	
278SQN	No. 278 Squadron	RAAF Base Williamtown	
278SQN DET TDL	No. 278 Squadron Detachment Tindal	RAAF Base Tindal	
278SQN DET AMB	No. 278 Squadron Detachment Amberley	RAAF Base Amberley	
278SQN DET PEA	No. 278 Squadron Detachment Pearce	RAAF Base Pearce	
81 Wing			
HQ81WG	Headquaters No. 81 Wing	RAAF Base Williamtown	
3SQN	No. 3 Squadron	RAAF Base Williamtown	F/A-18
75SQN	No. 3 Squadron	RAAF Base Tindal	F/A-18
77SQN	No. 3 Squadron	RAAF Base Williamtown	F/A-18
82 Wing			
HQ82WG	Headquaters No. 82 Wing	RAAF Base Amberley	
1SQN	No. 1 Squadron	RAAF Base Amberley	F-111
6SQN	No. 6 Squadron	RAAF Base Amberley	F-111
FACDU	Forward Air Control Development Unit	RAAF Base Williamtown	PC-9

Air Lift Group

Air Lift Group's primary role is to transport men and equipment tactically (over relatively short distances over the battlefield) and strategically (over significantly longer distances between theatres of operations or internationally).

UNIT	FULL NAME	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT
HQALG	Headquaters Air Lift Group	RAAF Base Richmond	
84 Wing			
HQ84WG	Headquaters No. 84 Wing	RAAF Base Richmond	
32SQN	No. 32 Squadron	RAAF Base East Sale	King Air 350
33SQN	No. 33 Squadron	RAAF Base Richmond	B707 / A330
34SQN	No. 34 Squadron	Defence Establishment Fairbairn	B737 BBJ / CL604
85 Wing			
HQ85WG	Headquaters No. 85 Wing	RAAF Base Richmond	
285SQN	No. 285 Squadron	RAAF Base Richmond	
AMTDU	Air Movements Training & Development Unit	RAAF Base Richmond	
86 Wing			

HQ86G	Headquaters No. 86 Wing	RAAF Base Richmond	
36SQN	No. 36 Squadron	RAAF Base Richmond	C-130H
37SQN	No. 36 Squadron	RAAF Base Richmond	C-130J
38SQN	No. 38 Squadron	RAAF Base Amberley	DCH-4 Caribou
38SQN DET B	No. 38 Squadron Detachment B	RAAF Base Townsville	DCH-4 Caribou

Surveillance and Response Group

Surveillance and Response Group's role is to locate, identify and track those elements in the battlespace of interest to Australia and its allies. It does this by operating Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft ground based fixed and portable radar. Its units can then direct other aircraft or airborne assets to engage the enemy. The other key role of SRG is maritime surveillance of surface and sub-surface items such as enemy ships and submarines or protecting the coastline and economic exclusion zones from illegal activities and providing search and rescue capability.

UNIT	FULL NAME	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT
HQSRG	Headquaters Surveillance and Response Group	RAAF Base Williamtown	
41 Wing			
HQ41WG	Headquaters No. 41 Wing	RAAF Base Williamtown	
1RSU	No. 1 Radar Surveillance Unit	RAAF Base Edinburgh	
3CRU	No. 3 Control and Reporting Unit	RAAF Base Williamtown	
114MCRU	No. 114 Mobile Control and Reporting Unit	RAAF Base Darwin	
114MCRU DET	No. 114 Mobile Control and Reporting Unit Detachment	RAAF Base Tindal	
SACTU	Surveillance and Control Training Unit	RAAF Base Williamtown	
42 Wing			
HQ44WG	Headquaters No. 42 Wing	RAAF Base Williamtown	
2SQN	No. 2 Squadron	RAAF Base Williamtown	B737 AEW&C
44 Wing			
HQ44WG	Headquaters No. 44 Wing	RAAF Base Williamtown	
44WG DET AMB	No. 44 Wing Detachment Amberley	RAAF Base Amberley	
44WG DET DAR	No. 44 Wing Detachment Darwin	RAAF Base Darwin	
44WG DET	No. 44 Wing Detachment	RAAF Base Edinburgh	

EDN	Edinburgh		
44WG DET ESL	No. 44 Wing Detachment East Sale	RAAF Base East Sale	
44WG DET NWA	No. 44 Wing Detachment Nowra	HMAS Albatross	
44WG DET OAK	No. 44 Wing Detachment Oakey	Oakey Army Aviation Centre	
44WG DET PEA	No. 44 Wing Detachment Pearce	RAAF Base Pearce	
44WG DET RIC	No. 44 Wing Detachment Richmond	RAAF Base Richmond	
44WG DET TDL	No. 44 Wing Detachment Tindal	RAAF Base Tindal	
44WG DET TVL	No. 44 Wing Detachment Townsville	RAAF Base Townsville	
44WG DET WLM	No. 44 Wing Detachment Williamtown	RAAF Base Williamtown	

92 Wing

HQ92WG	Headquaters No. 92 Wing	RAAF Base Edinburgh	
92WG DET A	No. 92 Wing Detachment A	RMAF Base Butterworth	P-3C
92WG DET B	No. 92 Wing Detachment B	RAAF Base Darwin	P-3C
10SQN	No. 10 Squadron	RAAF Base Edinburgh	P-3C
11SQN	No. 11 Squadron	RAAF Base Edinburgh	P-3C
292SQN	No. 292 Squadron	RAAF Base Edinburgh	P-3C

Combat Support Group

UNIT	FULL NAME	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT
HQCSG	Headquaters Combat Support Group	RAAF Base Amberley	
CSU-GLN	Combat Support Unit - Glenbrook	RAAF Base Glenbrook	
ACBAND	Air Command Band	RAAF Base Richmond	

395 Expeditionary Combat Support Wing

HQ395ECSW	Headquaters No. 395 Expeditionary Combat Support Wing	RAAF Base Townsville	
381ECSS	No. 381 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron	RAAF Base Williamtown	
382ECSS	No. 382 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron	RAAF Base Amberley	
386ECSS	No. 386 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron	RAAF Base Richmond	
1CCS	No. 1 Combat Communications Squadron	RAAF Base Richmond	

1CLS	No. 1 Combat Logicstics Squadron	RAAF Base Townsville
HQ1ATS	Headquaters No. 1 Air Terminal Squadron	RAAF Base Richmond
1ATS DET RIC	No. 1 Air Terminal Squadron Detachment Richmond	RAAF Base Richmond
1ATS DET AMB	No. 1 Air Terminal Squadron Detachment Amberley	RAAF Base Amberley
1ATS DET DAR	No. 1 Air Terminal Squadron Detachment Darwin	RAAF Base Darwin
1ATS DET PEA	No. 1 Air Terminal Squadron Detachment Pearce	RAAF Base Pearce
1ATS DET TDL	No. 1 Air Terminal Squadron Detachment Tindal	RAAF Base Tindal
1ATS DET TVL	No. 1 Air Terminal Squadron Detachment Townsville	RAAF Base Townsville
1ATS DET WLM	No. 1 Air Terminal Squadron Detachment Williamtown	RAAF Base Williamtown

396 Combat Support Wing

HQ396CSW	Headquaters No. 396 Combat Support Wing	RAAF Base Darwin
321CSS	No. 321 Combat Support Squadron	RAAF Base Darwin
322CSS	No. 322 Combat Support Squadron	RAAF Base Tindal
323CSS	No. 323 Combat Support Squadron	RAAF Base Townsville
324CSS	No. 324 Combat Support Squadron	RMAF Base Butterworth
CSU-AMB	Combat Support Unit - Amberley	RAAF Base Amberley
CSU-EDN	Combat Support Unit - Edinburgh	RAAF Base Edinburgh
CSU-RIC	Combat Support Unit - Richmond	RAAF Base Richmond
CSU-WLM	Combat Support Unit - Williamtown	RAAF Base Williamtown
	Bare Base Management Flight (HQ)	RAAF Base Darwin
	Bare Base Management Flight	RAAF Curtin
	Bare Base Management Flight	RAAF Learmonth
	Bare Base Management Flight	RAAF Scherger

Airfield Defence Wing

HQAFDW	Headquaters Airfield Defence Wing	RAAF Base Amberley
1ADS	No. 1 Airfield Defence Squadron	RAAF Base Edinburgh
2ADS	No. 2 Airfield Defence Squadron	RAAF Base Amberley
3ADS	No. 3 Airfield Defence Squadron	RAAF Base Amberley
3ADS DET	No. 3 Airfield Defence Squadron Detachment	Defence Establishment Fairbairn

Health Services Wing

UNIT	FULL NAME	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT
HQHSW	Headquaters Health Services Wing	RAAF Base Amberley	
1ATHS	No. 1 Air Transportable Health Squadron	RAAF Base Amberley	
2ATHS	No. 2 Air Transportable Health Squadron	RAAF Base Williamtown	
3CSH	No. 3 Combat Support Hospital	RAAF Base Richmond	

Combat Reserve Wing

UNIT	FULL NAME	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT
HQCResW	Headquaters Combat Reserve Wing	RAAF Base Glenbrook	
13SQN	No. 13 Squadron	RAAF Base Darwin	
21SQN	No. 21 Squadron	RAAF Williams	
22SQN	No. 22 Squadron	RAAF Base Richmond	
23SQN	No. 23 Squadron	RAAF Base Amberley	
24SQN	No. 24 Squadron	RAAF Base Edinburgh	
25SQN	No. 25 Squadron	RAAF Base Pearce	
26SQN	No. 26 Squadron	RAAF Base Williamtown	
27SQN	No. 27 Squadron	RAAF Base Townsville	
28SQN	No. 28 Squadron	Canberra International Airport	
29SQN	No. 29 Squadron	Anglesea Barracks Hobart	

Aerospace Operational Support Group

UNIT	FULL NAME	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT
HQAOSG	Headquaters Aerospace Operational Support Group	RAAF Base Edinburgh	

Aircraft Research and Development Unit

UNIT	FULL NAME	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT
ARDU	Aircraft Research and Development Unit	RAAF Base Edinburgh	
JEWOSU	Joint Electronic Warfare Operational Support Unit	RAAF Base Edinburgh	
ASCENG	Aircraft Stores Compatibility Engineering Agency	RAAF Base Edinburgh	
462SQN	No. 462 Squadron	Russell Offices	
87SQN	No. 87 Squadron	RAAF Base Glenbrook	

Training Command

UNIT	FULL NAME	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT
HQTC	Headquaters Training Command	RAAF Williams	
Air Training Wing			
HQATW	Headquaters Air Training Wing	RAAF Base East Sale	
ADFBFTS	Basic Flying Training School	Tamworth	CT4
2FTS	No. 2 Flying Training School	RAAF Base Pearce	PC-9
CFS	Central Flying School	RAAF Base East Sale	PC-9
SAN	School of Air Navigation	RAAF Base East Sale	
SATC	School of Air Traffic Control	RAAF Base East Sale	
AVMED	Institute of Aviation Medicine	RAAF Base Edinburgh	
CSTS	Combat Survival Training School	RAAF Base Townsville	
CSU-ESL	Combat Support Unit - East Sale	RAAF Base East Sale	
Ground Training Wing			
HQGTW	Headquaters Ground Training Wing	RAAF Base Wagga	
ADFLANGS	ADF School of Languages	RAAF Williams	
CSU-WGA	Combat Support Unit Wagga	RAAF Base Wagga	
DITC	Defence International Training Centre	RAAF Williams	
HSTF	Health Services Training Flight	RAAF Williams	
RAAFSTT	RAAF School of Technical Training	RAAF Base Wagga	
RAAFSFS	RAAF Security and Fire School	RAAF Base Amberley	
EOTS	RAAF Explosive Ordnance Training School	Defence Establishment Orchard Hills	
RAAF College			
RAAFCOL	Headquaters RAAF College	RAAF Williams	
1RTU	1 Recruit Training Unit	RAAF Base Edinburgh	
OTS	Officer Training School	RAAF Williams	
SPS	School of Postgraduate Studies	RAAF Base Wagga	
Combat Support Unit - Williams			
CSU-WIL	Combat Support Unit - Williams	RAAF Williams	
MUSEUM	RAAF Museum	RAAF Williams	
CENBAND	Central Band	RAAF Williams	
Combat Support Force - Pearce			
CSF-PEA	Combat Support Force - Pearce	RAAF Base Pearce	